



## Monthly Bulletin

June 2020

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### Western States Seismic Policy Council

801 K Street, Suite 1236  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-444-6816  
Fax: 916-444-8077

### WSSPC News

- WSSPC is working remotely until the State of California's COVID-19 policy/practices and current conditions support the re-opening of our downtown Sacramento office. WSSPC's lease at this office expires at the end of January 2021. We are in the process of looking for another office space as it's anticipated this location will no longer be available.  
*(UPDATE: Current expectation is to return to the office the first week of June pending any additional guidance from the State of California).*
- The 2019 WSSPC Policy Survey Report is completed and published. Members of WSSPC were provided the survey in November 2019 and asked what policies were in place as of that date. Ten of sixteen US members responded with the last response being received in March 2020. The report can be found at: <https://www.wsspc.org/public-policy/recommendation-survey/>
- WSSPC is supporting the Government Accountability Office (GAO) by helping to coordinate an on-line meeting with State Geologists/Directors for their Congressional Report as mandated by the NEHRP Reauthorization.

### WSSPC Monthly Calls

WSSPC hosts monthly calls for three main groups:

- Member Earthquake Program Managers—typically held on the third Thursday of each month
- Member State Geologists and Seismic Commissions & Councils— typically held on the second Tuesday of each month
- The WSSPC Clearinghouse. Work Group—typically held on the third Wednesday of each month

These monthly calls allow us to communicate more regularly and create platforms where we can share ideas. If you are not currently participating in at least one of these calls, we encourage you to do so! For more information, contact Matthew Wall at [mwall@wsspc.org](mailto:mwall@wsspc.org).

Please remember WSSPC's VOIP/telephone and video conference resources are available to WSSPC members. We are happy to help facilitate and/or support you.



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### News of interest:

- “The **Wyoming State Geological Survey (WSGS)** released five new geological maps of areas in southwestern and northwestern Wyoming. The agency published the 1:24,000-scale maps through its STATEMAP program.” Link to the press release and more information: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WYSGS/bulletins/28a946c>
- The **Geological Survey of Canada (GSC)** has released their sixth generation *Seismic Hazard Model for the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC 2020)*. A key proposed update to the NBCC 2020 as compared to its 2015 predecessor (NBCC 2015) is the change to the Cascadia Subduction Zone information, specifically the characterization of additional subduction interface sources. *Canada's 6th Generation Seismic Hazard Model, as Prepared for the 2020 National Building Code of Canada* document can be found at: [https://seismescanada.rncan.gc.ca/hazard-alea/2019\\_12CCEE/12CCEE\\_Adams\\_etal\\_6thGenerationModel\\_192-Mkvp-139.pdf](https://seismescanada.rncan.gc.ca/hazard-alea/2019_12CCEE/12CCEE_Adams_etal_6thGenerationModel_192-Mkvp-139.pdf)
- **USGS is seeking Earthquake Hazards Research Proposals.** (From the notification) “The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is currently soliciting project proposals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 grants on earthquake hazards science and is authorized to award up to \$7 million. Interested researchers can apply online at [GRANTS.GOV](https://www.grants.gov) under funding Opportunity Number G20AS00042. **Due to COVID-19, the application deadline has been extended to June 3, 2020.**”
- From the [Resilience Contributions of the International Building Code](#) published by the **International Code Council**, “To achieve resilience, communities must understand their risks and identify activities designed to reduce those risks. Communities often struggle to define what specific risks they should consider in defining their own resilience (e.g., resilient to what?). Risks vary by community based on geography and social, economic or organizational issues. Risks may be acute in the form of shocks from natural or man-made hazards or chronic in the form of stresses that develop over time..” The white paper clearly lays out the resilience benefits of building codes and strategizing to prepare and protect communities in advance of an event.

### You can Provide Input for our Resources Webpage and Social Media Page!

We are continuously updating our resources and reports page on our website! We are looking for input on what you would like to see in our resources page and any specific articles, studies, or projects you would like referenced there.

We have also been expanding our social media. To give more attention to earthquake safety. If you any content you would like to see us start posting, please reach out to WSSPC with your ideas!



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**News of interest (cont.):**

- **The National Institute of Building Science (NIBS)** has completed and published its [Natural Hazards Mitigation Saves 2019 Report](#). From the document: “Mitigation represents a sound financial investment. This study examined five sets of mitigation strategies and found that society enjoys a benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of 11:1 for adopting the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC), the model building codes developed by the International Code Council (also known as the I-Codes), versus codes represented by 1990-era design; a BCR of 4:1 for investments to exceed select provisions of the 2015 IRC and IBC; a BCR of 4:1 for a variety of common retrofit measures for private-sector buildings; a BCR of 4:1 for a select number of utilities and transportation infrastructure study cases; and a BCR of \$6 for every \$1 spent through mitigation grants funded through select federal agencies.”
- The **Natural Hazards Center 45th Research and Applications Workshop** is accepting abstract submissions for two categories—**Research and Practice Highlights** and **Poster Sessions**. “Submissions must be 250 words or less and include a separate listing of title, author/co-authors, and affiliations. Abstracts should adhere to professional writing standards. Author names and order should be entered **exactly** as you would like it to appear online.” For more information see: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2020/submissions>
- **Business Oregon** announces new round of seismic rehabilitation grants - [Thirty-Five Oregon Schools and Emergency Services Buildings will Undergo Seismic Retrofits and Improvements through State Grant Program](#) From the article, “With this round, now 252 schools and 108 emergency services buildings have been awarded \$456,732,427 in funding for improvements since the program’s first awards in 2009.”
- Per the **Utah Geologic Survey (UGS)** press release located at: <https://geology.utah.gov/press-release-new-utah-geologic-hazards-portal-allows-general-public-the-ability-to-search-and-find-geologic-hazards-in-their-area/> : “The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) recently released the [Utah Geologic Hazards Portal](#), an online mapping application that provides information on the type, location, and relative susceptibility of geologic hazards.”... “The *Utah Geologic Hazards Portal* includes recently released detailed mapping of ground surface rupturing faults capable of causing significant damage along the Wasatch Front. The app also delineates special study zones, where site-specific fault investigations are recommended, around the mapped traces of the Wasatch and associated faults. This mapping provides crucial information for reducing earthquake risk in the state’s most densely populated and rapidly developing areas.”



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**Upcoming Workshops and Events**

*(Note—WSSPC will continue to post updated information impacting scheduled or cancelled meetings, workshops, or events when we receive it.)*

**45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop**

*Will be held virtually*

July 12-15, 2020

<https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2020>

**National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) 2020 Annual Forum**

Cleveland, OH

September 24-27, 2020

<https://www.nemaweb.org/index.php/forums-meetings/save-the-date>

**San Fernando Earthquake Conference – 50 Years of Lifeline Engineering**

Understanding, Improving, & Operationalizing Hazard Resilience for Lifelines

University of California, Los Angeles, California USA

February 7-10, 2021

<https://samueli.ucla.edu/lifelines2021/>

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**If you have an event or workshop you would like to see posted on in the WSSPC bulletins, please email us at [wsspc@wsspc.org](mailto:wsspc@wsspc.org)**

**For more information on upcoming NEHRP related events, please visit:  
[https://www.nehrp.gov/pdf/NEHRP\\_related\\_Events.pdf](https://www.nehrp.gov/pdf/NEHRP_related_Events.pdf)**

**WSSPC would like to thank the following entities for continuing their Affiliate Membership status for 2020. Your support is tremendously appreciated!**

- [California Earthquake Authority](#)
- [The City of Las Vegas, Department of Building and Safety](#)
- [Clark County, NV Department of Building and Fire Prevention](#)
- [Applied Technology Council](#)

**Remember, you and/or your organization can be an Affiliate Member!**

**Information on how to join can be found at: <https://www.wsspc.org/members/affiliate-members/>**